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Runcorn Urban District



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1945.





Urban District Authority of Runcorn

ANNUAL REPORT

1945

BY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Officials of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent, Dutton Isolation Hospital:
DR. E. N. HILLMAN GRAY (L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.).

Sanitary Inspectors.

**Senior* : MR. ALLEN DALE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

**Additional* : MR. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.S.I.A., (Cert., L'pool) Meat and Foods. (Returned from H.M. Forces June, 1945.)

Additional : MR. JOHN GREENAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

(*—Also appointed Shops Inspector.)

Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn.

Chairman of the Council (1st January, 1945, to 15th April, 1945) :

COUNCILLOR T. J. LLOYD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council (1st January, 1945, to 15th April, 1945) :

COUNCILLOR J. A. ROBERTSON.

Chairman of the Council (15th April, 1945, to 31st December, 1945) :

COUNCILLOR A. G. JEACOCK, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council (15th April, 1945, to 31st December, 1945) :

COUNCILLOR T. J. LLOYD.

COUNCILLOR T. ASHLEY, J.P. (*Chairman*, Finance Committee).

„ C. E. BROOKER, J.P.

„ T. CLARE.

„ C. EVANS (*Chairman*, Public Health Committee).

ALDERMAN W. GITTENS, C.C., J.P.

COUNCILLOR W. GREGORY (*Chairman*, Highways & Buildings Committee).

„ A. GROUNDS.

„ H. GOODALL.

„ J. HAYES.

„ F. HOLT.

„ J. NEWALL.

„ J. M. HOLT, M.B.E. (*Chairman*, Baths, Market & Cemetery Committee).

~~ALDERMAN~~ „ C. C. POSNETT, C.C.

COUNCILLOR J. A. ROBERTSON.

„ P. SMITH, J.P.

„ W. TAYLOR, M.B.E., J.P.

„ J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

Officers.

Clerk to the Council : MR. JOHN HOWARD.

Engineer & Surveyor : MR. A. B. CUNNINGHAM (M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.).

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INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Runcorn.

Gentlemen,

This momentous year has seen the end of hostilities with Germany and Japan, leaving us with the aftermath : clearing up and the preparation for "winning the peace." Let us hope that the combined operations and mutual aid, which meant so much to us in the war, will continue, for we will want these in dealing with preventive medicine generally, including the most important subjects of Housing and Food.

Dirty, overcrowded, insanitary dwellings, especially in dense areas, produce disease ; for the moment we can deal with the first, i.e., **Dirt**, by personal cleanliness (hot baths, clean clothes, etc.), and cleanliness in the home ; the latter by *frequent* and thorough "spring cleaning" which has been proved to destroy disease germs and so prevent disease.

As regards overcrowded and insanitary dwellings, new houses are required, which must be a priority in matters to be dealt with. A short-term policy has been settled, to be followed by a long-term policy and eventually the eradication of dense areas, all fitting into a proper Town Planning Scheme.

A Housing Survey of the district was commenced late in 1945 and should be completed in 1946.

Speaking generally, the health of the community has been satisfactory, especially considering war conditions. The latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in the essential work required in connection with Infectious Disease, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health Propaganda.

It is noted with the greatest satisfaction that the Government propose to deal by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health, these will apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security.

The various excellent voluntary societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be made aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament by explaining these to all concerned and also informing citizens of the numerous voluntary societies which have available **now** facilities suitable for all tastes.

We must congratulate the National Council of Social Service with their many attached societies, etc., for their excellent voluntary work, and especially the Cheshire Community Council ; in addition, the Arts Council (Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts (C.E.M.A.)) has, and in the future will have, an important bearing in bringing music and art to the people.

Community Centres and village halls with playing fields are required as soon as possible so that citizens may join together in search of further healthy mental and physical exercise. Children require playing fields provided through the Education Authority and The National Playing Fields Association assisted by the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The Carnegie Trust through the Cheshire Rural Community Council (Organising Secretary : Norman Cottam, Esq., Newgate, Chester), have available grants and loans for Community Centres and village halls, they also assist especially music and drama societies with grants for special advisers, etc.

The Carnegie Trust is only available for Community Centres and village halls in the districts with a population of 5,000 or under. Where the population is over 5,000 the provision of Community Centres and village halls is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority.

The year 1945 has been a strenuous year, in that with "First Aid" preventive measures only allowed, we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties ; the sincere thanks to all concerned, my Council, Officials, Doctors, Nurses and all voluntary bodies, is extended to them by me, for only by team work and co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained ; the various voluntary bodies, including the Central Council for Health Education, Arts Council (C.E.M.A), the W.V.S., W.E.A., B.R.C., and St. John's Societies must be specially mentioned.

The Ministry of Food have directed the attention of all to making use of the most readily available and best foods, in fact, have done much to help us to win the war, by keeping us healthy. May we continue to learn from our war experience, especially in the choosing of foods available and improving our cooking with the inclusion in our daily diet of some uncooked fresh green vegetables ; or if these are cooked, we must see that this is carried out properly, otherwise valuable vitamins will be lost.

A stockpot for soups should be used more extensively.

Fish, for example herrings, are a valuable food, and Swedish turnip has much vitamin C in it, which will act as a good substitute for expensive fruits, etc. Fruit juices as an extra should also be used daily, otherwise a condition of scurvy may occur due to vitamin C deficiency. Rose hips and black currant juices, etc., have much vitamin C in them.

Young children must have their daily milk, cod liver oil, and fruit juice. School children their schools meals and extra milk (which should be suitably flavoured to encourage the use of milk) so as to prevent disease and lay a good foundation for health in the body.

Expectant mothers and certain special sick should have their extra milk, etc.

Diphtheria immunisation proves again and again everywhere its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease ; **all children**, preferably just before their first birthday, must be properly immunised, with a further dose in just under five years time, this can be obtained free of charge under the Council's Scheme from their own doctors (at the surgery or at home) failing this at the Welfare Centre, Day Nursery or School. *Prevention is better than cure.*

Owing to the danger of serious cases of smallpox arriving in this country from abroad, all concerned are advised they must be vaccinated as required by the Act.

It is hoped that more *Youth Hostels* will become available generally, so allowing walkers and cyclists that necessary exercise and enjoyment in new and beautiful surroundings at very cheap rates. Youth Hostels are one of the many youth organisations available for all concerned (e.g., Scouts, Guides, etc.)—open air exercise is cheap and essential to all.

Health Education.

Immunisation, skin disease, dietetics and Cooking, also venereal disease, have all received special attention, lectures have been given, leaflets, etc., have been circulated to all voluntary societies, youth organisations, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of great assistance in this connection. Education in health matters through voluntary societies, schools, etc., is most important; on application to me lectures, films, etc., can be arranged.

Infestation.

Infestation of children with head lice, which can not only convey infections, but through irritations and sometimes septic conditions, lower the standard of health of the children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of lethane oil (with hot lysol solution and derbac comb) is strongly recommended as this has been found to be efficacious in the eradication of head lice. Derbac soap with the derbac comb has also been used. All parents and guardians should note this matter now and in the future.

Scabies.

The Scheme which was put into operation during the year 1942 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scabies Order, is being carried out via General Practitioners, failing this, at the Warrington Cleansing Centre on application to me; the treatment consists of bathing and the application of benzyl benzoate. During the year the incidence of scabies notified has been slight.

Water Supply.

The sufficiency and quality of the water supply to the town has been satisfactory; frequent tests are made during the year by the Deputy County Analyst. The supply is constant and all dwelling houses have a main supply available to them.

Disposal of Sewage.

Some years ago you appointed a Sub-Committee to deal further with this matter aided by the Surveyor and other experts. The Ministry of Health are aware of any action which it is proposed to take. This matter should be dealt with *as soon as possible*.

Abattoir.

The slaughtering of animals in a Central Abattoir having the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, will be a policy decision of the Ministries concerned probably in 1946.

Maternity Home.

The Cheshire County Council has under consideration the provision of a Maternity Home to serve the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts. The shortage of staff may delay the project, but it should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Cheshire County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee make arrangements as required through the Welfare Centres for mothers to have their confinements in various Maternity Hospitals (i.e., West Park and Clatterbridge) and Homes (e.g., Chester Maternity Home, etc.), also :—

Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.

Chester Maternity Home.

Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.

Crewe Maternity Home.

The Garth, Neston.

Glossop Maternity Home.

Hope Hospital, Pendleton.

Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

Longton Cottage Hospital.

St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

Sale War Memorial Hospital.

Salvation Army Home, Liverpool.

Southfields, Bowden.

Warrington Borough (Victoria Park).

Widnes Maternity Home.

Dutton Isolation Hospital.

Dutton Isolation Hospital is still being used as the combined hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts. The staff has been under establishment of nurses for some time ; those available have given efficient service.

The co-operation and help of all concerned in the Public Health Department has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties, with special mention of Mr. A. Dale, Senior Sanitary Inspector ; Mr. A. Duckworth, Sanitary Inspector (returned from H.M. Forces, June, 1945) ; Mr. J. Greenan, Sanitary Inspector and Mr. A. Sproston, Public Health Department (clerical duties).

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

(a)	Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	2,904
(b)	Estimated Population (mid 1945)	...	...	...	...	...	21,690
(c)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1945) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	6,353
(d)	Rateable value of the District	...	...	...	...	...	£192,784
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	£781
(f)	Density of Population. Number of Persons per acre (estimated population mid 1945)	...	...	...	...	...	7.5
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house. (Estimate population mid 1945)	...	...	...	...	...	3.4

Social Conditions.

Runcorn is distinctly urban in character, situated on the south bank of the estuary of the River Mersey. The ground rises from the river, the highest point being at Runcorn Hill, 256 feet above sea level.

The town is built on red sandstone with pockets of boulder clay.

Chemical industries and tanneries absorb the bulk of the working population of the town. Many young people are engaged in cable works and jam works situated in the Rural District, while persons of all ages are employed on the river and canals.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS...	Legitimate	...	394	208	186
	Illegitimate	...	24	16	8
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			418	224	194

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 19.2.

Live births born outside Runcorn Urban District but belonging to the Runcorn Urban District (172)—7.2 per 1,000 resident population.

	Total	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS	18	9	9

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 41.28.

DEATHS	291	136	155
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 13.42.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1	2.29
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes ...	Nil	Nil
Total	1	2.29

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births (28 deaths)	66.98
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	62.94
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.

The causes of the highest mortality were :—

Heart Disease	100
Cancer	39

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of, e.g., rheumatism in childhood, this is about to be further investigated under instructions from the Ministry of Health.

For further remarks on Cancer see page 28 (i.e., further research, *early* diagnosis and treatment, etc.).

A summary of deaths of infants under 1 year of age is as follows :

Broncho pneumonia	...	...	10 cases (one case was treated in hospital—one also had whooping cough)
Acute Gastric Enteritis	...	...	1 case
Bronchitis	...	...	1 case
Haemorrhage	...	...	3 cases (one also had whooping cough)
Prematurity	...	...	5 cases (4 in hospital)
Tubercular meningitis	...	...	1 case
Congenital Syphilis	...	...	1 case (hospital)
Cardiac failure	...	...	3 cases (with collapse of lungs—hospital)
Convulsions	...	...	1 case
Spina Bifida	...	...	1 case
Cephalocele Meningomycococle	...	...	1 case (hospital)
Total	...	...	28 deaths

Treatment in a general hospital or an infectious disease hospital is available for all such cases if any doctor decides that treatment will benefit and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in hospital or nursing homes.

More volunteers are urgently required for the County Council "Home Help Scheme"; helpers are paid through the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester.

There were 153 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

					M.	F.	Total
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	...	...	12	16	28
„ 70-79	„ „	...	...	42	43	85
„ 80-89	„ „	...	...	5	27	32
„ 90-99	„ „	...	...	3	5	8
„ 100 years	„ „	...	...	—	—	—

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year.

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Mid-year Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1941	22,830	18.8	12.08	64.9
1942	22,730	17.9	22.2	56.2
1943	22,450	17.66	13.22	53.24
1944	21,840	20.6	13.2	65.7
1945	21,690	19.2	13.42	66.98

Inquests were held regarding 18 deaths, 5 of which were inward transfers.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1) Public Health Officers.

The names and qualifications, districts, address, telephone, are given at the beginning of the Report.

(2) Facilities.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The Biological Institute of Evans Medical Supplies Limited is established in Runcorn. The Institute examines pathological specimens and milk supplies and also supplies serum for cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and anthrax.

Water supplies are examined by the Deputy County Analyst.

(b) Ambulance Facilities are as follows :—

There are three ambulances in the town available for the public, to which my Council pay an annual retaining fee.

(c) Home Nursing.

Runcorn District Nursing Association—3 nurses and 1 relief nurse.

Number of midwives practising in the district—5.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Child Welfare, etc., are under the direct control of the County Council.

School Clinics—29, High Street, Runcorn. (Welfare Centre.)

Tuesday a.m. ; Monday, Thursday, Friday (p.m.) „ „

Infant Welfare Centre—Wednesday a.m. and p.m. „ „

Anti-natal Clinic—Thursday a.m. „ „

Post Natal Clinic—4th Thursday each month (p.m.) „ „

Orthopaedic Clinic—Tuesday and Fridays (a.m.) „ „

Tuberculosis Dispensary Memorial Hospital, Runcorn—
Thursdays (a.m. and p.m.).

(e) War Nursery, Okell Street, Runcorn.

Under direct control of the County Council.

Open each day 8 a.m. (except Sundays).

(f) Venereal Disease Clinics (free and confidential) serving the district :—**Liverpool Royal Infirmary.**

Males : Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5.0 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, 5.0 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Females : Tuesday, 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Warrington Infirmary.

Males and Females : Monday, 11.0 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Males : Thursday, 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Females : Thursday, 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Warrington Borough General Hospital.

Males and Females : Friday, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary.

Males :	Wednesday,	5.0 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Saturday,	12 noon to 2 p.m.
Females :	Monday and	
	Thursday,	5.0 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hospitals.

(a) The Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

(b) **Smallpox Hospital.**

The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases.

(c) **Runcorn Isolation Hospital** is at present closed, the cases being accommodated in the Runcorn Rural Isolation Hospital at Dutton.

(d) **Puerperal Cases** are provided for by the County Council at Clatterbridge General Hospital, etc.

(e) **Public Assistance Hospital** is situated at Dutton.

General.

The Government Report on Hospitals in the North Western Area and their recommendations for the future has been received by my Council ; this matter will probably be brought up again in 1946 when the Government's White Paper on the proposed State Medical Service is received, which will involve recommendations as to the treatment of patients locally and in hospitals, consultant, specialist, and new laboratory services, ambulance services, etc.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances.

1. (I)—WATER.

The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn well-water. It is frequently tested, both chemically and bacteriologically, and for this purpose samples are taken approximately 8 times a year. The well-water is tested monthly.

The Analyst's reports were favourable.

(II)—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land. Another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the Westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

There were no extensions of sewers during the year under review.

2. (I)—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of 15 pail closets, all houses are on the water carriage system.

(II)—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole district on a weekly basis, and disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled."*

The collection of salvage material has developed considerably during the year and should continue for some time as a national necessity.

iii.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order 1926 :—

Inspections made for all purposes	...	...	...	...	3,642
Nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	701
Notices served (Informal, re 264 houses)	...	...	...	...	211

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Description					
Bake houses	...	...	...	...	49
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	228
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	7
Complaints	...	...	...	...	401
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	54
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	101
Factories	...	...	...	...	58
Food Shops,	...	...	...	...	106
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	590
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	27
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	130
Licensed Music Halls	...	...	...	...	7
Manure Receptacles	...	...	...	...	22
Middens and Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	218
Nuisance Abatement	...	...	...	...	679
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	16
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	62
Owners and Agents Interviewed	...	...	...	...	104
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	13
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	39
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	10
Schools' Conveniences	...	...	...	...	58
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	475
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	4
Vans, Tents, etc.	...	...	...	...	54
Water Closets and Drains	...	...	...	...	85
Water Samples (Domestic)	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ (Baths)	...	...	...	...	8
Total					3,642

iv. SHOPS.

During the year 106 inspections of shops were made and apart from a few minor contraventions, were found to be in a satisfactory condition in relation to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation. General speaking the shops were found to be well kept.

The provisions of the Employment of Young Persons Act and the Shops (Closing Hours) Act were observed fairly generally. It was not found necessary to take legal action under the Shops Acts.

v. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year no observations have been made for the purpose of smoke abatement owing to war conditions, but this will be recommenced it is hoped in 1946.

vi. SWIMMING BATHS.

The Urban District Council maintain a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly from the town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least once a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory.

Certain improvements are required structurally when labour and material are available.

vii. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

			<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
1.	(a) Number of Council houses	... ..	4	4
	(b) Number of other houses...	... ..	23	23
2.	The methods employed for freeing infested houses include application of strong vermicides and fumigants of high potency :—			
	(1) Vermicine.		(2) Zaldecide	
	(3) Slatford Insecticide made by British Fumigants, Ltd.			
	(4) Gammexane.		(5) D.D.T.	

4.—SCHOOLS.

During the year inspections of public elementary schools have been made ; the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory, and the water supply is good and adequate in general.

Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.					Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	...				34	3	
Factories without Mechanical Power	...				15	—	
Other Buildings (Building Engineering Construction)	...	...	...	...	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	49	3	Nil
2.—DEFECTS FOUND.					Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	...				3	3	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) Defective	...	...			—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...			3	3	Nil
Number of Outworkers' Lists :—1 Contractors, 3 Outworkers.							
Number of Underground Bakehouses in use :—Nil.							

All Factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose.

SECTION D.

Housing.

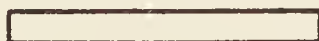
Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st December, 1945	...	...	...	...	6,353
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	...	...			2.2
Number of new houses erected during 1945 :					
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	...	...			302

I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1945 :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	590
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	850

4.—HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	75
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	86
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	524
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	22
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil



RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR (already forwarded to the Ministry of Health)

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

During the year 1945, the number of canal boats inspected was 228.

Whilst the general condition of the boats was fairly good, one cannot overlook the fact that now the days of war are behind us, something should be attempted to make the conditions of all living-in on canal boats as hygienic and comfortable as possible. It is very desirable that a greater cubic capacity per head should be provided for, particularly in narrow boats, also a larger supply of water for domestic purposes ; a more hygienic method of sanitation on the boat itself, and bathing facilities at certain convenient points where boats tie up for the night or week-end.

The latter is most essential, having regard to the presence of children and adolescents on boats which form the only home they possess.

The number of persons occupying the 228 boats consisted of :—

Men : 298. Women : 96. Children : 70.

The age group of children is herewith given :—

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 years	
4	11	2	7	6	3	3	2	7	5	11	3	6	Total 70.

Eight boats were found to be defective, and the nature of the contraventions of the Canal Boat Regulations and Public Health Acts which were dealt with is indicated below :—

Leaking tops of cabins	...	...	...	...	3
Leaking sides of cabins	...	...	...	...	3
Defective cabin steps	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sheathing bed berth	...	...	...	...	1
Painting of cabins	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water vessels	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	17

Four boats registered at Runcorn were broken up during the year and the registrations thereof cancelled in the register.

There have been no new registrations of canal boats during the year and the number on our register now is 545.

No case of infectious disease was notified during the year 1945 on board a canal boat.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY :—

During the year 54 inspections have been made of dairies and milkshops, and inspections of farms in the district have periodically been carried out.

There are 96 purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority.

The premises inspected were invariably found in a clean condition.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936, 1938, 1941.

Licences have been granted under the above Order as follows :—

To sell "Accredited Milk "	...	...	...	4
To Produce and Retail Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	1
To sell Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	1
To sell Pasteurised milk...	...	...	...	1
				7

(b) MILK TESTING :—

47 samples of milk were taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Order, 1936.

The samples consisted of :—	Report.		
	No.	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
(1) Raw ordinary milk	11	nil	11
(2) Accredited milk	8	nil	8
(3) Pasteurised milk	28	13	15
	—	—	—
	47	13	34

Investigations have been made regarding all the above samples, and where the milk was produced outside our area, the responsible Authority was informed.

The Accredited reports were referred to the County Council.

Regarding milk produced in my area, investigations were made both at the farm and dairy, also at the Pasteurising Plant, with the result that improvement has been effected.

There is no doubt but that the question of milk production leaves much to be desired, but in addition to the above, improvement can be achieved by having healthy herds, strict cleanliness on the farm, by the retailer and the consumer; and all milk must be kept in a cool, dark place properly covered from dust and flies, and used within twenty-four hours after delivery, especially during warm weather.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1936.

(1) During the year 84 visits were made to premises where foods are prepared or sold, and these were found to be satisfactory.

The undermentioned articles of food were inspected and taken from food shops under the Unsound Food Provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1936 :—

Bacon	...	...	...	105 lbs.	Preserves...	...	...	12 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	33½ lbs.	Pudding mixture	...	...	56 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	23 pkts.	Sausages	...	...	48 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	86 lbs.	Semolina	...	...	62 pkts.
Eggs (dried)	...	...	...	1 lb.	Tinned Beans...	...	...	24 tins
Eggs (fresh)	...	...	...	6½ doz.	„ Meat	...	...	333½ lbs.
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	126 lbs.	„ Milk	...	...	51 tins
Fish (tinned)	...	...	...	45 tins	„ Peas	...	...	9 tins
Lentils	...	...	...	1,008 lbs.	Corned Beef and			
					Mutton	...	...	1,499 lbs.

ABATTOIR.

(2) The taking over of the abattoir in 1940 by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering centre to supply the needs of 60 shops in the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts has involved a considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time in the work of anti-mortem and post-mortem inspections.

During the year 160 emergency slaughterings took place. There were 20 cows brought in and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders.

In all, 13,061 animals were killed and all were inspected ; for the latter purpose 475 visits were made to the Abattoir.

The animals killed and inspected consisted of :—

Bulls	...	...	...	76	Cow-heifers	...	...	174
Bullocks	...	...	...	465	Calves	...	...	1,727
Cows	...	...	...	897	Sheep and lambs	...	...	9,048
Heifers	...	...	...	568	Pigs	...	...	106
Total.....				13061.				

Of the cows (897) and cow-heifers (174) inspected (i.e., 1,071), the number found to be affected with tuberculosis and mastitis in the udder was :—

				<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
(1)	Tuberculosis	...	...	188	20.9%
(2)	Mastitis	...	...	175	19.5%

In their bearing on milk infection these figures are interesting.

The amount of meat and offals condemned was :—

<i>For Tuberculosis.</i>	<i>For other causes.</i>
14 tons, 3 cwts., 3 qrs.	9 tons, 13 cwts., 3 qrs.
Total :—23 tons, 17 cwts., 2 qrs.	

In addition $3\frac{3}{4}$ cwts. were taken from shops and condemned, making a total of 24 tons, 1 cwt., 1 qr., which were condemned.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Bulls, Bullocks Heifers</i>	<i>Cows & Cow- heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed... ..	1,109	1,071	1,727	9,048	106
Number inspected	1,109	1,071	1,727	9,048	106
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned	nil	11	19	6	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	350	550	5	324	7
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	31.56%	52.38%	1.33%	3.75%	6.60%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	4	24	nil	nil	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was con- demned	148	406	nil	nil	5
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.7%	42.47%	nil	nil	5.66%

A. DALE, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

ADULTERATION, ETC.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Foods and Drugs Act during the year 1945 :—

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

<i>Name of Sample.</i>							<i>No. obtained.</i>	<i>No. adulterated.</i>
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	—
Betox	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Bisto	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Borax	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Baking powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cream of Tartar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Dessert Mould...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Ginger, Ground	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Glycerine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Lemoxa	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Milks	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	—
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malted Milk Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Stuffing, Sage and Onion	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sulphur and Yeast Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Semolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Stomach Powders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Table Dessert	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
							<hr/> 60	<hr/> 0

It will be noticed that all samples reached the legal or recognised standard of purity and this can be considered as highly satisfactory.

Shell-fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the District. If shell-fish, mussels or shrimps are eaten locally, they must be *well* cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

Watercress.

Only that grown on properly controlled beds (with a pure water supply) should be supplied, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to scarlet fever.

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g., measles and whooping cough, sound curative sera could be made when these diseases could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., diphtheria immunisation, small pox vaccination, inoculation against typhoid fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent ; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

My Council's free scheme is still available so that parents and guardians can have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age, **PREFERABLY JUST BEFORE ONE YEAR OF AGE**, should be properly immunised against diphtheria ; in addition a "booster dose" is required in five years' time. This can be obtained free of cost through the parents' or guardians' own doctor (at the surgery or at home), failing this, at Schools or Welfare Centres or Day Nurseries, to which application should be made.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once :—"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

The following figures speak for themselves :—

Runcorn Urban District—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939—157

do. of Diphtheria in 1945— 7

Percentage of children immunised in 1939—50%

do. immunised in 1945—98%

Runcorn Rural District—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939— 29

do. of Diphtheria in 1945— 6

Percentage of children immunised in 1939—58%

do. immunised in 1945—99%

Immunisation.

It will be noted that through my Council's FREE SCHEME the percentage of children immunised has risen to 98% ; it is recommended that when staff are available immunisation be carried out in the future in Welfare Centres and Schools by their respective Medical Services under control of the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire ; in addition to the free immunisation through local doctors (at the surgery or at home).

Formalin Treatment.

Formalin treatment for diphtheria carriers, including first contacts, institute by me in 1938, is still being carried out successfully. An article by me on this subject was printed in the *British Medical Journal* during the year.

CARE OF THE BLIND.

The Welfare of Blind Persons is dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY and Special Schools for Defective Children.

This is dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Medical Officer of Health and arrangements are made by the former for specialist and/or hospital treatment as required.

CANCER

(Cancer Act, 1939).

An amended extract from the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, Annual Report on this matter which reads as follows :—

For the treatment of Cancer generally, patients who consult their own doctors and can afford the cost of treatment (or get recommends—British Empire Cancer Campaign) go to the larger hospitals offering facilities in Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport, Birkenhead, Chester and Warrington.

For those who appeal to the local authority for treatment the following arrangements are in force :—

- (1) Provided by the Local Authority (~~via Cheshire County Welfare Centres~~), Clatterbridge County Hospital.

Here radium and operative treatment are carried out but there are no facilities at present for deep X-ray Therapy. Cases requiring such treatment are referred to the Radium Institute, Liverpool, from the hospital. It is intended that when the extensions to Clatterbridge Hospital are completed such treatment will be available there.

(2) By arrangement with other hospitals—(Public Assistance Committee).

(a) Manchester Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute.

(b) Chester Royal Infirmary.

Arrangements are in force for Radium, Operative treatment and Deep X-ray Therapy at both the above hospitals.

Early diagnosis and treatment is most important in this disease.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE FROM ABROAD.

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject, this can be carried out free of charge through the local Vaccination Medical Officer.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1945.

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1945 :—

Disease	Total Cases Notified *	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	58	47	—
Whooping Cough ...	10	—	2
Diphtheria ...	7	7	1 x
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—
Measles ...	7	—	—
Pneumonia ...	25	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	1
Total ...	113	54	22

x = Not Immunised.

*An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age-groups are given below :—

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 to over
Scarlet Fever ...	58	—	—	6	2	6	22	13	4	3	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	3	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	7	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	2	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—
Measles	7	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	—	1	—	—	1	4	2	1	6	2	5	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners and can be obtained at any time from the local laboratories of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Limited, or in great emergency from Dutton Isolation Hospital. *In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.*

Antitoxin should be given in *all suspicious cases at once* in the home or in hospital. Swabbing is only an aid to diagnosis.

Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria are examined at Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Limited, Laboratory.

Swabs examined during 1945 :—

(Positive : 10. Negative : 114.)

Runcorn Urban District.

TOTAL DEATHS, 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	All causes	...	...	...	...	136	155
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1	—
6.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3	6
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	2
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	3
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	1	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	3	2
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	5
16.	Cancer of all other parts	...	...	...	...	15	9
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	12	5
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	33	67
20.	Other disease of circ. system	...	...	...	...	7	8
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	3
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	13	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	6

29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion. Sepsis	...	...	—	1
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	2	3
32.	Congential Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	...	...	4	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	2	—
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	1	—
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	2	—
36.	All other causes	...	...	14	14
(Registrar General's figures)					

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	...	...	...	16	12
	Legitimate	...	...	...	14	11
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	...	...	...	224	194
	Legitimate	...	...	...	208	186
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	16	8

STILLBIRTHS	Total	...	...	...	9	9
	Legitimate	...	...	...	8	9
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—

POPULATION Estimated 21,690
Comparability Factor (not available for 1945).



Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1945.

England & Wales, London, 126 Great Towns & 148 Smaller Towns (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	Run-corn Urban District	Eng- land and Wales	126 County Boro's & Great Towns inclndg. London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admini- strative County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS—					
Live Births (418) ...	19.2	16.1 *	19.1	19.2	15.7
Still Births (18) ...	0.82	0.46 *	0.58	0.53	0.40
DEATHS—					
All Causes (291) ...	13.4	11.4 *	13.5	12.3	13.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough (2)...	0.09	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria (1) ...	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Influenza (3) ...	0.13	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age (28) ...	66.9	46 *	54	43	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age (1) ...	2.3	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

*Per 1,000 related births.

*Rates per 1,000 Total population.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

NOTIFICATIONS—					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever (58) ...	2.67	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57
Whooping Cough (10)	0.47	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25
Diphtheria (10) ...	0.47	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31
Erysipelas (6) ...	0.27	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles (7) ...	0.32	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03
Pneumonia (25) ...	1.15	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78

Rates per 1,000 Total births (Live and Still) :—

Puerperal Fever	...	2.29	} 9.93	12.65	8.81	{ 3.60 *15.87
Puerperal Pyrexia	...					

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales :—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6, 145-150 Other
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15—45
—England and Wales :—

No. 140 With Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
18	6

*Including Puerperal Fever.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary to compulsorily remove to hospital any person suffering from tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, see summary below ; in addition, remarks on food in preface. Early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required, by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and as required, to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Pasteurisation of milk is strongly recommended to prevent this and other diseases.

Particulars of the 20 new cases of Tuberculosis and of the 9 deaths from the disease in the area during 1945 :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	2	7	—	—	—	3	—	—
25—34	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—54	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—64	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	10	2	1	4	5	—	—

All of the 9 deaths were notified cases.

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis are examined at the Cheshire County Council's Laboratory.

During the year 1945 the following sputums were dealt with :—

Total No. of sputums 52
(Negative, 41. Positive, 11.)

Tuberculosis Cases on Register—Comparative Rates :

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total All Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1941 ...	22,830	37	29	40	88	154	6.7
1942 ...	22,730	49	35	41	92	176	7.7
1943 ...	22,450	50	35	50	45	180	8.01
1944 ...	21,840	53	35	50	49	187	8.5
1945 ...	21,690	56	40	50	50	196	9.03

Summary of Annual Report.

Considering war conditions, the general health of the community has been satisfactory ; when the various matters mentioned in this Report are put into effect health (mental and physical) should greatly improve, provided *all* concerned co-operate. Improved housing conditions, food and further health education are *urgently required*.

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts.

Medical Superintendent,

Isolation Hospital, Dutton.

